

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St
Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
September 10, 2023

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 10, 2023

Pentecost is a season for growing represented by the color green. We celebrate the founding of the church and the fruits of the Spirit, and the continued growth given by our gracious God.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Arise in body or Spirit

Gathering Song

Making Their Way

ACS 979



1 Mak-ing their way down through the a-ges, sin-ners and saints have
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o-ver, Chris-tians as-sem-ble
3 Mak-ing our way sea-son by sea-son, pil-grims, we jour-ney



heard God's call: wealth-y and poor, pow-er-ful, low-ly,
on this day, hear-ing the Word, shar-ing the Ban-quet,
till life's end, trav-el-ing light, shar-ing the rich-es,



Je-sus'dis-ci-ples, one and all. Gath-ered for wor-ship, of-fer-ing thanks,
learn-ing to walk in Je-sus' way. Mem-bers of Christ, u-nit-ed in love,
car-ing for strang-er as for friend, till in the joy of long-ing ful-filled,



the great-est with the least have come to share this feast.
they seek our God to know, and so to-gether grow.
to-gether we will come to our e-ter-nal home.

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

☐ The steadfast love of God, the life of Jesus Christ, and the growth of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

ELW page 167

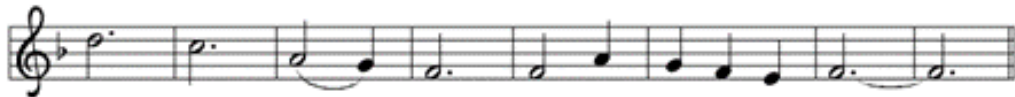
Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:

have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right
hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain on page 3

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
Final refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est.
A - men, a - men.

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray... O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.
- ☑ **Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

📖 A reading from **Ezekiel**:

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

📖 Word of God, word of life.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119:33-40



Refrain



I de - sire the path of your com - mand - ments.

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain. R**

³⁷Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me. R**

Second Reading

Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

A reading from **Romans**:

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

☐ Word of God, word of life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

TTF Page 50



☑ **Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to **Matthew**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Silence for reflection. After reflection,
Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.

Hymn of the Day

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

ELW 603

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **God of Grace**. The assembly prays, **Receive our prayer**.

Ⓐ Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.
A brief silence.

Ⓐ Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companions Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids; Gull Lake Bible Church, Hickory Corners; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. God of Grace.

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving. God of Grace.

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke)*. God of Grace.

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

A Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick especially *Veronica Baarson, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Andy Cove, Pat and Ray DePew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Mike Gibbons, Lisa Golnek, Henry Heil, Tina Kemper, Martha Mizak, Lisa Nurenberg, Abbie Osborn (pregnancy), Corrina Palmer, Ricky Palmer, Sherry Palmer, Kathy Politis, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Theresa Strefling, Randy Teegardin, Al Throop, Kay Wagner, and the Family of Matt Wilke.*

Guard their waking and their sleeping. God of Grace.

C Receive our prayer.

A Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith. May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. God of Grace.

C Receive our prayer.

P Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Arise in body or spirit.

Offering Song

Create in Me

TFF Page 55



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me.



Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your

Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -

hold me with your free Spir - it.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me.

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples.
- ☑ **Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your hands and feet in the world.**

Sharing the Peace of God

- Ⓐ The peace of Christ be with you.
- ☑ **And also with you.**
(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Great Thanksgiving

- Ⓐ The Lord be with you.
- ☑ **And also with you.**
- Ⓐ Lift up your hearts.
- ☑ **We lift them to the Lord.**
- Ⓐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- ☑ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
 san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Table Prayer

- ☐ Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
- ☑ **You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.**

☐ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- ☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- Ⓟ Remembering, therefore, Christ's life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
- Ⓞ **By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want.**
- Ⓟ By this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.
- Ⓞ **Through Christ all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen**

Lord's Prayer

- Ⓟ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:
- Ⓞ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

- Ⓟ Taste and see that the Lord is good.
- Ⓞ **Thanks be to God.**

Sit.

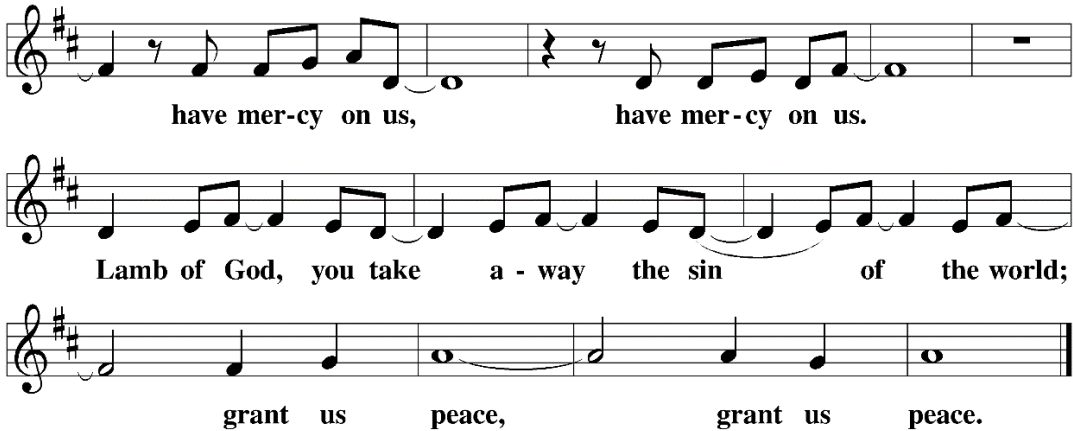
Lamb of God

TFF Page 39

Ⓞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Songs

<i>I Come With Joy</i>	ELW 482
<i>Let Us Break Bread Together</i>	ELW 471

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy.
- Ⓑ **Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- Ⓐ Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in God, and abound in thanksgiving. The blessing of the Holy Trinity, ✚ one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.
- Ⓑ **Amen.**

Sending Song

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW 836

Sending

- Ⓐ Reconciled to God through Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- Ⓑ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

No One Is Lost to God

Our relationship to God is bound together with our relationships to one another. We are church together. Whenever hurt or conflict arises in community, Jesus calls us toward reconciliation. But what about those times when, despite our most sincere efforts, the one who has caused us harm refuses to listen? What do we do when it doesn't feel safe to invite them back into relationship? Or what about those times when we ourselves choose to separate rather than return to a community that has refused to believe us?

Sometimes in our quest to do what's right, we might hold so tightly to our checklist for church discipline that we leave little room for grace. In such cases, we might keep the peace or avoid open disagreement without attending to the real wounds at the heart of any conflict. The truth is also that sometimes, whether for our own safety or our own self-respect, we may wisely choose to keep our distance from others who have refused to take to heart the harmful impact of their words or actions. Yet, even when we allow ourselves the space that we need, God remains present.

Jesus doesn't say that whatever we lose on earth will be lost in heaven. The operative word isn't *lose*, but *loose*—as in “release,” “set free,” or “let go of.” When we've responded in good faith to the conflicts that arise between us and have exhausted every option for reconciliation, Jesus invites us to tenderly acknowledge our failure, loosen our grip on the situation, and give that one over to God. We should never take this letting-go lightly. At the same time, we can trust that when we are left to release a member of our community into God's mercy, we do not lose them. For no one is ever lost to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Joe Varkula

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Kate Watson

Lector – Bill Freedlund

Cantor – Vickey Argo

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Fellowship – Watson Family

PaperGator Our collections over the past year are at a level that do not meet the minimum average of one full bin per month and unfortunately, the PaperGator will be removed in the coming weeks. We do have an opportunity to fill it and perhaps they will change their mind.

Community Worship and Meal On Sunday, October 29, Grace Lutheran Church is having a combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. The Grace Notes Bell Choir is ringing, the worship style will be similar to the outdoor service, and our meal will allow people to express their heritage. You are encouraged to bring a dish of food to celebrate your ethnic background.

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the ONE who continues to save each one of us. Let us reach out in Christian love to one another.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Attendance: 53

Views: 228

Weekly Giving: \$6,360.00

Budget Amount: \$4,366.17

Books for Kids: \$590.00 THANKS!

Lifting Up Campaign Needed: \$7,740.65.- Note starting need was \$25,000.00

Lifting Up Campaign Received: -\$ 0.00

TOTAL Outstanding: \$7,740.65

Grace Projects needs your support as Council has voted to ask for funds to help pay for our \$1,000.00 deductible for the roof replacement and repair. Thank you for considering giving towards this need. Thanks to a generous gift, we now only have \$550.00 to go to fully fund this need.

Prayer Chain Grace has an activated prayer chain. If you want to be a part of the prayer chain, or have a request for prayer, please text or call Patti Comp at 248.408.5613.

Adult Forum studies normally studies Proverbs in the Gathering Area Sundays at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there when we resume next Sunday.

The nursery is available weekly during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

Books for Kids Thank you for supporting Books for Kids! We exceeded our goal by \$90.00.

Congregational Care Meeting The Congregational Care Committee will meet **TOMORROW Monday, September 11 at 3:00 p.m.** If you have questions, please contact Sharon Varkula.



The Outreach Committee invites you to help the Hand2Hand Program which provides food over the weekend to students in need in Hastings schools. We are collecting donations of Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, pudding cups, Slim Jims, granola bars, individual size instant oatmeal, ramen noodles, and ready-to-eat mac and cheese. In addition, September items are as follows; individual snacks, peanut butter (small jars) individual toothbrushes, toothpaste, and dental floss. Please place all donations in the box at the front entrance. This month's donations are due by September 24. Green Street Church has expressed their gratitude for our participation in this program.

Noisy Offering will be collected today to benefit Barry County Cares. You may place coins and other money into the silver bowl located in the front during the singing of the offertory song. Noisy Offering is taken every second Sunday.

Women of Faith There has been interest in resuming the Women of Faith Bible study group. There is a brief survey included in today’s bulletin. If you are interested, please fill out the survey and place it in the offering plate. Thank you.

RELAY FOR LIFE Sept 16th from 10am-10pm Tyden Park in Hastings~ All are welcome to this free event to *support the fighters, admire the survivors, honor the taken!* More details and an important sign-up for the survivors' dinner on the bulletin board to help with meal planning. Please return any **luminaries** by Sept 5th , donations accepted at Grace through Sept 10th, after that please make donations online at RELAY FOR LIFE of BARRY COUNTY or to a walker during the event.

BOG Brothers of Grace are meeting on a new night this year. They are gathering at 6:00 p.m. for their first meeting on Thursday, September 14. Gentlemen mark your calendars, and we’ll see you then.

Social Activities have planned a trip to Turkeyville on Saturday, October 14 at 12:00 p.m. Tickets are \$58 each which includes a turkey meal and the play *Forever Plaid*. The deadline for sign-up is Sunday, September 17. Please see the bulletin board in the Gathering Area for more details and information regarding payment.

Book Study A book study is being considered for Sunday mornings sometime this fall. If you are interested in studying Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist, please contact the church office or Pastor Ken. If we have enough interest, the study would begin in October. Books will be available for the maximum cost of \$24.00.

